

JOINT CITY OF REPUBLIC - FERRY COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY
Ferry County, Washington
January 1, 1992 Through December 31, 1992

Schedule Of Findings

1. The Joint City of Republic-Ferry County Housing Authority Should Avoid Activities That Create A Beneficial Interest

During 1992, the board chairman of the Joint City of Republic-Ferry County Housing Authority authorized the payment of invoices to his grocery store for \$1,324.03. During 1993, the board chairman established a construction company and the liability to the construction company was at least \$19,496.60 through August 25, 1993, in addition to \$115.62 to the grocery store. The board chairman was the only board member signing the vouchers approving payment on each of these invoices.

RCW 42.23.030 states in part:

. . . No municipal officer shall be beneficially interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract which may be made by, through, or under the supervision of such officer, in whole or in part, or which may be made for the benefit of his office, or accept, directly or indirectly, any compensation, gratuity or reward in connection with such contract from any other person beneficially interested therein. This section shall not apply in the following cases:

(6) . . . PROVIDED, That the total volume of business represented by such contract or contracts in which a particular officer is interested, singly or in the aggregate, as measured by the dollar amount of the municipality's liability thereunder, shall not exceed seven hundred fifty dollars in any calendar month . . . PROVIDED FURTHER, That there shall be public disclosure by having an available list of such purchases or contracts, and if the supplier or contractor is an official of the municipality, he or she shall not vote on the authorization. . . . (Emphasis ours.)

The dollar threshold was exceeded in 1993 and all the invoices were authorized by the board chairman.

Housing authority officials did not realize this activity was prohibited.

We recommend that the housing authority comply with RCW 42.23.030 in future dealings with board members.